

a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines Area that are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious honor based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2016 class of Forty Under 40 honorees will join an impressive roster of 640 business leaders and growing.

As a state representative, cyber entrepreneur at SimSpace Corporation, and as a Major in the U.S. Air Force, Zach certainly finds himself with little spare time. He works tirelessly in the Iowa Legislature to promote the State of Iowa and increase economic opportunities both domestically and abroad. Zach is also dedicated to improving relationships among public and private entities so we are able to protect businesses and government from cyber threats. His dedication to the State of Iowa and our country are a true testament to his Iowa values.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Zach in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud him for utilizing his talents to better both his community and the great state of Iowa. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Zach on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2016 Forty Under 40 class a long and successful career.

HONORING MR. HAROLD WARD, JR.

### HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 14, 2016*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable Unsung Hero, Mr. Harold Ward, Jr., a resident of Winstonville, Mississippi.

Harold Ward, Jr. was born and raised in the small town of Mound Bayou, Mississippi, where he graduated from John F. Kennedy Memorial High School in 1999. After graduating from high school, Harold attended Coahoma Community College in Clarksdale, Mississippi, and Mississippi Valley State University in Itta Bena, Mississippi. Harold is a member of Mount Olive Missionary Baptist Church in Mound Bayou. He is the son of Judge Harold Ward Sr. and Patricia White-Ward; the youngest of four children: Ms. Chauncila M. Ward (deceased), Dr. Kendria Ward, and Attorney Yumekia Ward; the grandson of the late Napoleon White Sr. and Mrs. Earline J. Hill, Reverend Henry Ward and Mrs. Iola Ward.

Mr. Ward was born with sickle cell disease. At the age of 25, Harold's oldest sister, Chauncila, passed away from complications of sickle cell disease. Sickle Cell Disease is an inherited blood disorder that affects nearly 100,000 Americans. Sickle Cell Disease causes red blood cells to form into crescent shapes like sickles that cuts off the oxygen supply to the blood causing excruciating pain. Even though Mr. Ward suffers from this debilitating disease, he does not allow it to completely make him bedridden and on his good days he does volunteer work.

Always unselfish with his time and immensely involved with community service activities in the City of Mound Bayou and the town of Winstonville, Mississippi. Mr. Ward has been a constant inspiration to others.

In 2007, he began volunteering his services at Delta Health Center in Mound Bayou, Mississippi, where he assisted nurses with triage patients, filing documents, and read Christmas stories to patients' children. He also aided in the recruitment of patients to the facility by going door to door informing people of the services available at Delta Health Center. In 2014 Mr. Ward was lead sales representative with Humana and guided qualified individuals through the sign-up process for Obamacare.

Mr. Ward reorganized the town of Winstonville Volunteer Fire Department where he currently serves as Fire Chief. He encouraged people in the community between the ages of 21–35 to volunteer their services to the town by becoming a volunteer fire fighter.

On February 22, 2015 he received an award from Chi Mu Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, of Mound Bayou, Mississippi, in recognition for his outstanding contributions and dedicated services in the field of health.

Mr. Ward compassionately volunteers with the City of Mound Bayou, serving as assistant to Mayor Darryl Johnson.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing this amazing Unsung Hero.

IN HONOR OF PEARLIE S. REED

### HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 14, 2016*

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart and solemn remembrance that I pay tribute to an outstanding civic leader and public servant, Pearlle S. Reed. Mr. Reed passed away on Friday, April 8, 2016. A funeral service was held on Friday, April 15, 2016 11:00 a.m. at Old St. Paul Baptist Church in West Memphis, Arkansas.

Mr. Reed was born in Heth, Arkansas and attended the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Animal Husbandry in 1970. He later earned a master's degree in Public Administration-Finance from American University in Washington, DC, in 1980.

Mr. Reed began his career with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Soil Conservation Service while he was still a college student in 1968. In the years that followed, Mr. Reed rose steadily in the Soil Conservation Service from a soil conservationist, to deputy state conservationist, to State Conservationist for Maryland from 1985–1989 and State Conservationist for California from 1989–1993. Mr. Reed then served as Associate Chief after the Soil Conservation Service was renamed the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). In this capacity, he spearheaded the most comprehensive reorganization of the agency in its 60-year history. He also initiated the American Indian outreach effort for NRCS to work directly with tribes and provided leadership in the development and implementation of the Conservation Title of the 1996 Farm Bill.

In 1997, Mr. Reed served as Acting Assistant Secretary of Agriculture for Administration

before he was promoted to Chief of NRCS in 1998, a position he held until 2002 when he was named Regional Conservationist for the Western United States.

In 1996, then-Secretary of Agriculture Dan Glickman appointed Mr. Reed to lead the Secretary's Civil Rights Action Team to develop recommendations to advance civil rights within USDA. The Team made 92 recommendations and President Bill Clinton issued an order that all recommendations be implemented. As Mr. Reed stated, "the work of the Civil Rights Action Team is recognized as having set direction for civil rights policy at USDA to ensure that every employee treats every customer and co-worker fairly and equitably, with dignity and respect."

Although Mr. Reed retired from USDA in 2003, his strong and effective leadership was widely noted, and he was nominated by President Barack Obama to serve as Assistant Secretary of Agriculture in May 2009. Mr. Reed also served as a leader of several USDA-wide initiatives, such as the chair of the USDA/1990 Task Force, chair of the USDA Agricultural Air Quality Task Force, and chair of the USDA National Food and Agriculture Council. His service included international conservation experience and his contributions in South Africa, Australia, and the International Soil Conservation Organization demonstrate the breadth of his influence.

For nearly four decades, Pearlle Reed was a familiar face at USDA and a driving force for progress within the Department. He acted as a voice for disadvantaged and minority farmers and worked tirelessly to advocate for the conservation of our nation's precious resources. Over the course of his career, Mr. Reed received numerous awards and commendations, including the Distinguished Presidential Rank Award for strength, integrity, industry, and a relentless commitment to public service; the George Washington Carver Public Service Hall of Fame Award; and the USDA Secretary's Honor Award for equal opportunity and civil rights; among others.

On a personal note, I had the privilege of working closely with Pearlle during my time on the House Agriculture Committee and through my ongoing service on the Agriculture Subcommittee of the House Appropriations Committee. I have truly been blessed by his friendship, counsel and inspiration throughout the years.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in saluting Pearlle S. Reed for his outstanding public service and his influence on progress at the U.S. Department of Agriculture. We extend our deepest condolences to Mr. Reed's family and friends during this difficult time and we pray they will be consoled and comforted by an abiding faith and the Holy Spirit in the days, weeks and months ahead.

IN APPRECIATION OF THE  
SERVICE OF STEPHANIE BAEZ

### HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 14, 2016*

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Stephanie Baez for her dedicated service to the House of Representatives. Over the